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Activities in Slovenia

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Cells Drive for Tito Popularity

1. Tito's popularity was the main concern of Ljubljana cells in the past few weeks. All other problems were ignored in favor of elaborate preparations for Tito's birthday. It was noticed, however, that the people, for the most part, were not enthusiastic. Mass meetings were thereupon quickly arranged in Vic, Siska, Moste and other districts of Ljubljana. Speakers emphasized an urgency for a more zealous celebration of Tito's birthday.
2. Directives to the Tito cells now order that attempts be made to infiltrate into anti-Tito groups, and increase Tito's appeal by playing up his sustained fight against the Cominform and his guarantee of a completely independent Yugoslavia.
3. Many Cominform exploits have been undermined effectively according to the opinion in Tito cells. Furthermore, in anti-regime circles, Tito is accepted as a lesser evil than the Cominform. The main concern of his followers now is to maintain intelligence which will provide advance warning of any contemplated Cominform offensive.

Evidence of Cominform Organization

4. There are important Cominform centers outside of Ljubljana, such as Vrhnika, Logatec, Skofja Loka, Kranj, Trzic, Medvode, Litija, St. Vid and others local action squads already organized with quartier and street cells, whose main assignment is to prepare for any eventuality. There is no evidence of similar organizations existing in the small villages. It appears that the Cominform leaders intend to rely largely on industrial workers and miners. Reports from mining sections, however, up to the present, fail to reveal any noticeable Cominform activity.
5. Surreptitious forced enlistment by Cominformists is also underway. Following is a typical scheme to obtain new adherents: At the end of the working day, the employee finds, either in his locker or the pockets of his street clothes, a letter inviting him to join the "revolutionist Communist leaders of the top Peoples' Soviets". He is given three days to think it over. After this period, the worker is expected to acknowledge his "mobilization" by appearing on the fourth day with a particular sign which may be one of the following: a rose in the button hole; a handkerchief hanging out of the pocket; lunch wrapped in certain paper or cloth; singing or whistling a designated song at work. A failure to

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accept the "invitation" or reporting the incident to the UDB is regarded as traitorous, and is followed by dire consequences, which sometimes endanger the life of the "candidate" and his relatives.

Cominform Pressure Growing

6. Threatening letters and phone calls from the Cominform have recently been received by Tito followers and by managing executives, particularly of nationalized enterprises. All telephone conversations are now under surveillance in Ljubljana.

Early in May the UDB arrested eight workers in a Ljubljana machine factory, on suspicion that they had carried out sabotage on Cominform instructions. The arrests caused unrest among the workers, and the labor union leaders attempted to quiet them. A few days later typewritten copies of threatening letters appeared on the factory walls. The letters declared that all true Communists and followers of Stalin and Lenin look upon Tito and his clique as disgusting agents of American imperialism. The factory executives were warned that they would be "liquidated" if the UDB did not within four days release the eight workers.

Following the appearance of these letters, investigations were carried on in the factory, which stopped work for several hours. Thus, workers are exposed to pressure from both the Cominform and from the authorities, who warn them that heavy penalties will be inflicted if these incidents are discussed in public. Similar cases are reported to have occurred in the textile factories of Jugobruna in Kranj.

7. Writing, predicting a new "surprise" for the Tito regime, has appeared on building walls in Trzin, Jesenice and Litija. There is, however, no hint as to what the surprise might be.

Cominform Sabotage

8. Cominform sabotage continues to be an outstanding problem. The cells admit it is extremely difficult to eliminate sabotage, and that their measures have thus far been ineffective. Kolhoz properties, and those of suspected farmers, have been investigated and guards established. Close observation has been kept on even the most zealous workers. All these preventive measures have achieved only a minimum of success. Sabotage in steel plants, both among the laborers and administration, has been mentioned in the cells.*
9. Tito cells contend that the increase in the sabotage of fruits and crops while in transit is the work of Cominformists. Garlic shipments arriving in Ljubljana from the Gorizia area recently were completely unusable. Though subsequent shipments have been accompanied by guards, sabotage has been repeated. Undiscovered saboteurs likewise sprayed naphtha on some shipments of early potatoes and peas from Istria. In Boshinjska Bela, the authorities found that acetic acid had been added to milk, intended for the Ljubljana hospital and officers' messes, causing it to curdle.
10. The critical food problem continues. The situation is particularly critical in the mountainous sections of Slovenia, around Cerklje, Bovec, Kobarid, the Karst and on the Banjska plain. Skilled Communist Party activists have been dispatched there in an effort to allay the fears of the people.

Unpopular Regime Tactics

11. Drivers transporting from the Kocevje woods, report the occurrence of serious incidents following the government order to cut down trees, which had previously been exempted from the agrarian reform. Currently, one cubic meter of wood brings 280 dinars at the sawmill. Since the owners of the woods have been without their own workers, the state has sent its own. The expense of providing one cubic meter of wood has risen to 310 dinars, with the owner required to make up the 30 dinar difference.

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12. Moreover, the tax bureau demands taxes for the trees felled from the owner. As a result of this system, some owners were assessed sixty to eighty thousand dinars, in addition to being deprived of any return from their sale of the wood. Some proprietors undertook to offer their woodlands gratis to the government. The government agreed, but only on the condition that the Kolhoz system be established with the lands.
13. Recently, the homes and allied buildings of some wood merchants were burned down. Since they previously had come to odds with the government, following wood demands and taxes, they were accused of having fired their properties and were jailed.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Informant was unable to establish any specific instances of Cominform sabotage in the steel factories of Slovenia.

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